COVER MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

Select the cover management condition that best describes the condition during the one-fourth of the year when rainfall and runoff are most erosive and the soil is most susceptible to erosion. Since the P factor effects are approximate, no provision is made for varying the cover-management condition class during the year.

Description of cropland cover-management conditions used in RUSLE for estimating P-factor values.

Cover-Management Condition	Description
Code 1. Established meadow.	In this condition, the grass is dense and runoff is very slow, about the slowest under any vegetative condition. When mowed and baled, this condition becomes condition 2.
Code 2. 1st year meadow, hay.	In this condition, the hay is a mixture of grass and legume just before cutting. The meadow is a good stand of grass that is nearing the end of the first year. When mowed and baled, this condition becomes a condition 4 for a short time.
Code 3. Heavy cover and/or very rough.	Ground cover for this condition is about 75 to 95%. Roughness is like that left by a high clearance moldboard plow on a heavy textured soil. Roughness depressions would have the appearance of being 7 inches deep and deeper. Vegetative hydraulic roughness would be like that from a good legume forage crop, such as lespedeza or alfalfa, that has not been mowed.
Code 4. Moderate cover and/or rough.	The ground cover for this condition is about 40 to 65%. This roughness would be like that left by a moldboard plow in a medium textured soil. Depressions would have the appearance of being about 4 to 6 inches deep. Vegetative hydraulic roughness would be much like that produced by winter small grain at full maturity.
Code 5. Light cover and/or moderate roughness.	Ground surface cover is between 10 to 30%, and the surface roughness is like that left by the first pass of a tandem disk over a medium texture soil that has been moldboard plowed. This roughness could also be much like that left after a chisel plow through a medium textured soil at optimum moisture conditions for tillage. Roughness depressions would have the appearance of being on the order of 2 to 3 inches deep. In terms of hydraulic roughness produced by vegetation, this condition is much like that produced by spring small grain at about three-fourths maturity.

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Cover-Management Condition	Description
Code 6. No cover and/or minimal roughness.	This condition is very much like the condition typically found in row cropped fields after the field has been planted and exposed to a moderately intense rainfall. Ground cover is less than about 5%, and the roughness is that characteristic of a tilled seedbed for corn, cotton, or soybeans. The surface is rougher than that of a finely pulverized seedbed.
Code 7. Clean-tilled, smooth, fallow.	This condition is essentially bare, with a cover of 5% or less. The soil has not had a crop grown on it in the last 6 months or more. Much of the residual effects of previous cropping has disappeared. The surface is smooth, much like the surface that develops on a very finely pulverized seedbed exposed to several intense rainfalls. This condition is most likely found in fallowed and vegetable fields, or in finely pulverized seedbeds for seeding grasses.